

monies of mourning for the dead,¹ at some of which the souls of the departed were represented by living persons. Annual Ten or more men would prepare themselves to play the part of ^{among} the ghosts by fasting for several days, especially by abstaining from flesh. Disguised with paint and soot, adorned with feathers and grasses, they danced and sang in the village or rushed about ^{In} the forest by night with burning torches ^{In} their hands. After a time they presented themselves to the relations of the deceased, who looked upon these maskers as in very truth their departed friends and received them accordingly with an outburst of lamentation, the old women scratching their own faces and smiting their breasts with stones in token of mourning. These masquerades were generally held in February. During their continuance a strict fast was observed in the village.² Among the Konkaus of California the dance of the dead is always held about the end of August and marks their New Year's Day. They collect a large quantity of food, clothing, baskets, ornaments, and whatever else the spirits are supposed to need in the other world. These they hang on a semicircle of boughs or small trees, cut and set in the ground leafless. In the centre burns a great fire, and hard by are the graves. The ceremony begins at evening and lasts till daybreak. As darkness falls, men and women sit on the graves and wail for the dead of the year. Then they dance round the fire with frenzied yells and whoops, casting from time to time the offerings into the flames. All must be consumed before the first faint streaks of dawn glimmer in the East.³ The Choctaws used to have a great respect for their dead. They Annual

did not bury their bodies but laid them on biers made
of [^e] dead^of bark and supported by forked sticks about fifteen feet
high, among the

Choctaw
s

¹ S. Powers, *Tribes of California* deceased, mimicking their character- and Pueblo (Washington, 1877), pp. 328, 355, istic gait and gestures. Women and Indians.

356, 384. children were supposed to take these

² Kostromitonow, "Bemerkungen mummers for real ghosts.

See A. C.

liber die Indianer in Ober-Kalifornien," Haddon, in *Reports of the Cambridge*

in K. F. v. Baer and Gr. v. Helmer- Anthropological Expedition to Torres

sen's *Beitrdge zur Kenntniss des rus- Straits* ^ v. (Cambridge, 1904)

pp. 252- 256; *The Belief in*

sischen ReicheS i. (St. Petersburg, 1839) *Immortality and*

pp. 88 sq. The natives of the western 176 sqq. *the Worship of the Dead*, i.

islands of Torres Straits used to hold a

great death-dance at which disguised California,

men personated the ghosts of the lately

³ S. Powers, *Tribes of*

pp. 437 sq.